

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS,

AND

Bulletin of American Numismatic and Archæological Societies.

VOL. IV.

NEW YORK, JULY, 1869.

No. 3.

A EUROPEAN NUMISMATIST,

AS PICTURED BY HIMSELF.

In the number of this JOURNAL for which we performed the obstetric office just a twelve-month since, there appeared an article on "Roman Family Coins". These form a series of which we then knew very little, and do not now know a great deal, and which is generally treated with neglect by American collectors. Yet it is exceedingly interesting, historically, to any one who will investigate, with the aid of the ordinary Ancient Histories and Classical Dictionaries, the fortunes of those old republican houses, both while they stood alone, and after their members ultimately became involved in the tremendous collision of the Julian, Pompeian, Junian, and Antonian pretensions. As illustrations of manners, customs and rites, these little denarii are texts to volumes of antiquarian lore; as veritable portraits, frequently, of great men, they form the most appropriate frontispieces to the biographies of the "viri Romæ", and, common and cheap as they most of them are, they are nevertheless very often perfect gems of minute art, comparable to work in precious or semi-precious stones. We intend to return to this subject hereafter, and to pursue it in a succession of papers, of which the one just mentioned may be regarded as the first. Our information in regard to these matters has been somewhat increased of late by the study of several specimens which we purchased from M. Gréau's auction in Paris last May. The most costly of these acquisitions was a denarius bearing on the obverse *CASCA LONGVS*, with a head of Neptune having a trident behind it, and on the reverse *BRVTVS IMP.*, with Victory trampling on a broken sceptre and tearing to pieces a diadem, or literally head-band, such as Julius Cæsar wished to assume. The Casca Longus is P. Servilius Casca, who aimed the first blow to assassinate the dictator, and was afterwards quaestor to Brutus; and the head of Neptune refers to a naval success gained over Antony and Octavian by the anti-Cæsarian party. A highly interesting historical monument, therefore: which, being also RR., cost us in gold a Napoleon, or Louis, as the aristocratic denizens of the Faubourg St. Germain, who belong to the party of Casca Longus *redivivus*, persist in calling the twenty-franc piece. If offered for sale in New York to-day it might bring fifty cents or a dollar in paper, so little are such coins at present valued; yet its market price in Naples, where the family denarii are of course very abundant, is five dollars. So Riccio tells us in his "*Monete delle Antiche Famiglie di Roma*", and he has also engraved it among the electrotype representations of the choicest pieces of his cabinet, appended to that costly quarto the "*Catalogo*" of his collection.

Having recently become possessed of both these books, as well as of "Havercamp's Thesaurus Morellianus", we expect to derive from them much instruction and entertainment for ourselves, and some, perhaps, for our readers; while we shall do our best to excite in them a taste and a love for ancient and foreign coins not less than for American. The latter, comparatively uninteresting from the start, are daily becoming so scarce through their absorption into the possession of the wealthy, whence they are not likely to emerge, that mere American Numismatology must soon expire for want of fuel. Our neighbors' houses must be set on fire, if we mean to keep up the conflagration; in other words, our science must become cosmopolitan or cease to exist.

The principal object which we have in view at present is to show, by a translated extract from the introduction to the second of the two above-mentioned works of Riccio, the "*Catalogo di Antiche Medaglie Consolari e di Famiglie Romane raccolte da Gennaro Riccio e compilato dallo stesso possessore*", published at Naples, 1855, how very differently and far more advantageously situated is the numismatic collector and student in Europe, and particularly in Southern Europe, from his American brother. Let us hear then the worthy chevalier, for that title, as "knight of the royal and distinguished order of Charles III.", belongs to him among the

many tokens of royal favor of which he is a little too proud, discourse about his own scientific career:—

"From my earliest years I felt a passion for archæological studies, while I had a particular predilection for numismatics, and, among the various classes of coins, for those called "consular", or "of Roman Families". I was greatly stimulated therein by the discovery of a very rich depository of them, made towards the end of 1823, in the vicinity of Diamante, a commune of Hither Calabria, attached to the district of maritime Belvedere, my native place. This treasure was perhaps concealed during the war of Sextus Pompey, in the years 716 and 718 of Rome, according to the distinguished Borghesi and Cavedoni, since there were found in it the coins of P. CLODIVS M.F. with the rising sun and with the moon and five stars, and the other with the head of Apollo and the torch-bearing Diana, all relating to the epoch in question. Not one was found of Pompey the Great or of Cæsar, those two famous warriors and rivals; but very many, on the other hand, of the triumph of Sylla. The entire number of these coins was estimated at an incredible amount, yet I can assert that I individually saw and examined about 20,000. I acquired at various times, and placed in my collection, 1,200 varieties of them, none very rare, except the Ogulnia and the Gargilia. On being attached to the magistracy, at first that of the district and afterwards that of the civil and penal courts, I had occasion to traverse almost all the provinces of the kingdom, particularly Basilicata, Molise, Terra di Lavoro, Abruzzi and Apulia; and every locality in them afforded me new acquisitions. Pre-eminent in regard to scarcity of families were Molise, whence I obtained the CORNUFICIA with the head of Africa, and the NUMITORIA, which, on account of its supreme uncommonness, was believed to be imaginary or an ancient forgery; and the Apulias, from which I derived in silver the STATIA, the unedited PLAVTIA restored by Trajan, the VALERIA with Europa on the bull, also restored, and in gold the PETRONIA and other rarities. But the principal nucleus and foundation of my rich collection consisted in a great number of rare and remarkable pieces transferred to me in 1838 by Sig. Pietro Rusca of Florence, and selected by him from several cabinets, which he had acquired in that city and its environs".

He then enumerates the many connoisseurs from the dispersion of whose accumulations his own stock gradually increased till it reached the vast sum of about *ten thousand* specimens, forming, in this particular branch of numismatics, a private museum altogether unrivalled. Passing over details uninteresting to the American reader, we subjoin a passage in which, with the *naïveté* so characteristic of Italian writing, he expresses the sentiments which he cherishes towards his favorite pursuit:—

"I still continue devoted to these darling studies, both for the erudition and the grand recollections which they involve, and for the abundant gratification which they impart. Numismatic occupations have often made me forget the annoyances of human intercourse, the unrestrained envy, meanness and calumny of passionate rivals, and the inevitable collisions of social life. Absorbed in my antiquarian researches, in the midst of my virtuous little family, I pass my life in tranquillity, far from the tempests of the world, and from the insatiable ambition of stupid men who think themselves great. My fine collection gave me occasion to write, for my own instruction, the first and second edition of my work on Roman Family Coins, in which I introduced nothing of my own except simple personal observations, but accumulated all that modern savans had attained in advance of their predecessors. I took pleasure in opening correspondence with all the greatest numismatists in the world, and in making my very humble name known to many most distinguished literary men, and to many sovereigns who honored me with formal attestations of their special favor".

Chevalier Riccio's collection was sold last year at Paris.* Whether its interesting originator still survives we know not. A man of super-sensitive feelings, as the above extract indicates, and strongly desirous of being appreciated and rewarded, he complains, in the second Supplement to his Catalogue, published at Naples, 1861, that he had been removed, in consequence of his liberal sentiments, from his judgeship in the Criminal Court. This took place during the despotism of King "Bomba", and was quite in order, he says, under that régime. But he bitterly adds that amid the present Italian resurrection, or "*risorgimento*", his learned labors meet with no recognition, and he has not been appointed Director of the National Museum. Patriotic principles, which some one once counted up as seven, viz: two loaves and five fishes, have a charming resemblance, it seems, all over the world.

* Amer. Journal of Numismatics, vol. iii., p. 40.

"REVOLUTIONARY PEACE MEDALS."

Editor AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS:

DEAR SIR:—Your readers will no doubt remember a very interesting article, under the above caption, contributed by W. S. Appleton, Esq., to the November number of the JOURNAL for 1867, in which he describes a number of medals of foreign origin, referring more or less directly to events connected with the successful termination of our war with Great Britain for National Independence. Six of the medals thus described, he states, are of Dutch origin; in regard to another (No. 9), after giving an elaborate description, he remarks, "I know nothing of the origin of this medal".

Having recently become the possessor of an odd volume of a work by Gerard van Loon, published at Amsterdam in 1863, entitled "*Beschrijving van Nederlandsche Historie Penningen*", I find therein the above medal engraved and fully described, together with the other six referred to, thus showing that it emanated from the same source as the others, and is therefore also of Dutch origin.

It was not for this purpose, however, that I was led to trouble you at this time, but to call your attention, and that of your readers (should you think the matter worthy of a place in your pages), to another and very beautiful medal engraved and described in the same work, and which appears to me to belong unmistakably to this very interesting series. It may be well known to yourself and other American numismatists, but as for myself I do not recollect ever to have seen a description of it until now, although it may possibly have made its appearance at some of the numerous coin sales during the past few years. I enclose a rough drawing of it, and from this you will be able to judge as to the correctness of the following description:

Obverse: Draped female figure partially facing towards the left, and standing on a square pedestal; in her right hand (the arm outstretched) a caduceus and a branch with three stems, each stem bearing a single bud or leaf; in her left hand (the arm pendant) a cornucopie, the upper portion of which rests against the shoulder. On the front of the pedestal a circular disc, or shield, with the following inscription in four lines: RES | PUBLICA | AMERI | CANA; from behind the disc, arising diagonally towards the left, a trident, and towards the right a pole with liberty cap; from either side of the field, pendant from a bow, a festoon or garland, from which are suspended the shields of Spain, Great Britain, the United Netherlands, and France. In the exergue, B. C. V. CALKER, F.

Reverse: A naked sword, point downward, supported by a hand issuing from a cloud on the right; the hand holding also an olive branch, extended toward the left; across the sword and occupying the centre of the field, a ribbon or scroll bearing the word PAX; and, extending around the lower half of the field, a continuation of the inscription in two lines (the first line being below the other): RESTAURATA MDCCLXXXIII | & MDCCLXXXIV. Size 26, American Scale. B.

GOETHE ON CORNER-STONES AND COINS.

Editor AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS:

DEAR SIR:—I sometimes see your interesting and elegant periodical in the possession of a relative who is a subscriber, and have read it from time to time with pleasure and profit. Among other articles which attracted my attention, that on "Coins under Corner-stones," in the number for February, 1868, remained in my memory on account of the curious custom which you there inquire into. I believe that you are quite correct in considering it as a kind of sacrifice, or "a rite of the ancient faith, which has descended to modern times, and lost its significance on the way." There was great propriety in placing such inscriptions as the one on the Pantheon, to the effect that it was erected by Marcus Agrippa in his third consulship, or that on the temple of Saturn, namely, that it was restored by the senate and people after having been consumed by fire—both of which I have seen at Rome—in the conspicuous positions which they occupy on the fronts of those two buildings. But the burying of memorials, and those often of considerable value, as coins, quite out of sight, in a position where, even on the destruction of the building, they must often be neglected or made away with by dishonest laborers, can only be regarded as a kind of propitiatory offering, intended to avert disaster from the edifice undertaken. It arose from the old feeling that there was in the minds of the gods a certain amount of cruelty and malevolence towards men, and particularly of envy or resentment on their aspiring to anything eminent, which had to be appeased ere mortals could be secure. Or, perhaps, those who take a lower view of the custom may class it with the numerous superstitious observances practised still in Italy to ward off the "evil eye".

As a German by birth, and therefore a born admirer of Goethe, I have lately been re-perusing his "Wahlverwandschaften", or "Elective Affinities", a book once thought rather objectionable by American ladies, but which the ebbing tide of puritanism has left in our days on a high moral pinnacle. There are in it two passages, both of a numismatic bearing, to which I would like, through a translation of them, to call your attention and that of your readers. The first one is a very ingenious, though, as I think, very unsuccessful attempt to explain the practice of burying coins under corner-stones, without resorting to the theory which you set up. In the novel, a new house has been commenced, and, at the laying of the corner-stone, one of the masons, after other remarks, speaks thus, and the auditors act as follows:

"But as every one who has committed an evil deed must fear that, in spite of all precaution, it shall yet come to light, so must the man, who has done good in secret, expect that it too may, against his will, come forth into day. *On that account* do we make this corner-stone to be likewise a memorial stone. Here in these different hewn cavities shall a variety of objects be deposited, as evidence for a remote posterity. These soldered cases of metal contain documentary information; on these metallic plates all sorts of remarkable things are engraved; in these beautiful glass bottles we lay down the best old wine, with a memorandum of the year of its birth; *there is no want of coins of various kinds, struck in this year*: all this we have received through the liberality of the proprietor. Here too is many a place, in case any guest or spectator have a desire to transmit anything to posterity".

"After a short pause the artisan looked around; but, as is usual on such occasions, no one was prepared, and every one was taken by surprise, till a young and lively officer gave the word and said: 'If I am to contribute anything which is not yet committed to this treasury, I must cut off a pair of buttons from my uniform, for they certainly deserve to go down to posterity'. So said, so done! and now many a one took a similar fancy. The ladies did not hesitate to lay in some of their small hair-combs; essence-bottles, and other ornaments were not spared; Ottilia alone held back, till, by a kind word, Edward drew her from the contemplation of all the things which had been contributed and introduced. Thereupon she loosed from her neck the golden chain on which had hung her father's portrait, and with light hand placed it above the other trinkets; after which, Edward, with some haste, directed the well-filled cover to be lowered and cemented down on all".

With the sentiment of my next extract I am sure that all your numismatic readers will sympathize; for it has more than once been my chance to mark the irritated expression of a collector's eye and the nervous twitching of his hands, while some choice gem of his cabinet was being ruthlessly pawed over by one of the careless and clumsy. The supposed speaker is a character who, in the romance of Goethe, bears no name more specific than "the architect". He is apologizing to Ottilia for not having, on a certain occasion, complied with her request to exhibit his collection to a miscellaneous company.

"If you knew—said he—how roughly even refined people treat the most precious works of art, you would pardon me for not wishing to bring mine into a crowd. *No one knows enough to take hold of a medal by the edge; they keep touching the finest impression, the purest field, and moving the most exquisite pieces up and down between thumb and fore-finger, as if this were the way to judge artistic forms.* Without reflecting that a large sheet ought to be grasped with both hands, they clutch with one hand some invaluable engraving, some drawing that cannot be replaced, as a would-be politician seizes a newspaper, and by his fierce rustling of the page announces in advance his decision on the great events of the day. No one considers that if but twenty persons were to act so in succession towards a work of art, the twenty-first would not see much in it."

"Have not I often—asked Ottilia—distressed you in this way? Have I not occasionally, perhaps, without intending it, injured your treasures?"

"Never—replied the architect—never! It would be impossible for you; propriety is inborn with you."

"In any case—rejoined Ottilia—it would not be amiss if there were to be inserted henceforth in the Catechism of Good Manners, after the chapters as to how society should behave in eating and drinking, a very precise one on the conduct to be observed in Museums and Collections of Art."

"Certainly—answered the architect—custodians and amateurs would in that event exhibit their rarities with more cheerful hearts."

There, MR. EDITOR, you have a contribution, and if, in the course of my not very extensive reading among the authors of my native country, I should meet with anything else relating to the pursuit, of which your JOURNAL is the organ, I will take the liberty to translate it and send it to you—premising, of course, that you testify your approval of my present communication by publishing it in your next number.

Very respectfully yours, etc.,

LUCIANE.

HOBOKEN, June 15th, 1869.

OWNERS OF COINS AND MEDALS.

The interest which often attaches to the specimens in a numismatic cabinet, at least to those of any antiquity, in consequence of the various possessors through whose hands they have successively passed, is a subject which has not yet been touched on in these pages. It is true that there is an incessant process of abstraction going on, through which coins and medals are being continually removed from the market and permanently placed where they are thenceforward inaccessible to purchasers. Royal and national museums in Europe, and, in America, the cabinets of men so wealthy that neither they nor their heirs are likely to become poor enough to dispose of their collections, are now withdrawing, and will, in the future, more and more withdraw, a great number of desirable pieces from all possibility of attainment. Yet of the majority, perhaps, and that even of the choicer description, the old saying or verse will doubtless be always true, which Camden says that a "right worshipfull friend" of his "writ upon his new house:

"Nunc mea, mox hujus, sed postea nescio cuius",

which may be paraphrased:

Mine to-day, to-morrow a Jew's,
And, after that, I know not whose.

In the catalogue of the collection of M. J. Gréau, sold at Paris last May, we find several coins particularized as "*avec la contre-marque de Modène*", "*marquée du poinçon du musée de Modène*". This stamp of the punch of the museum of Modena suggests a mode of enhancing the attractiveness of specimens, and at the same time endorsing their genuineness, which is not unworthy of consideration. The practice, if abused, and especially if applied to the faces of pieces, might indeed very soon reduce them to the condition of those dollars which sometimes return to us from the East, so completely "chopped", or covered with the counter-marks of Chinese merchants, that scarcely a vestige remains of their original impression. But we see no reason why the edge of a notable numismatic curiosity should not be thus made historic or biographic of itself, if it can be neatly and effectually done. That collectors do feel some interest in this matter of the pedigree of ownership is proved by the fact that in our sale-catalogues the names of former proprietors of objects of value are commonly mentioned in the few cases where they are known. Thus we meet with the "Gilmore" link cent of 1793, sold at Mr. Lilliendahl's auction in May, 1862, for \$24.50, and the "Abbey" cent of 1799, purchased at Mr. Mackenzie's sale last month for \$55.

We have been led to make these observations from happening to possess a remarkable example of a medal which, highly interesting in itself, is made still more so by a circumscription engraved on its edge almost a century after it was first struck. Of silver, size 41, it represents on the obverse the emperor Charles V., at half-length, to the right, in magnificent attire, with a baret, so-called, and resembling the Scotch bonnet, on his head, and the golden fleece around his neck, while he holds in his right hand the sceptre, and in his left the orb of empire. The Latin legend is to the effect that this is Carolus V., by the grace of God, Roman Emperor, Ever-August, King of Spain, in the year of Salvation 1537, of his own age 37. This great sovereign was thus, we perceive, at each and every epoch in his career, of the same age with the century in which he lived. The reverse of the medal exhibits the imperial double eagle bearing on its breast a richly carved armorial shield, beneath which is the golden fleece between the letters H. R. In the back-ground, at the sides, are the pillars of Hercules, with the emperor's motto: PLVS OVLTRE, the venerable original of the Yankee "Put it through!"

This medal is a work of such excellence and fame as to be engraved among the thirty selected to illustrate Bolzenthals' history of modern Medallion Art.* The artist, Henry Reitz, or Riez, or Ritz, whose initials appear on the reverse, was a goldsmith in Leipsic; and such productions as the one before us were sought for from men of his calling, to be used for personal adornment, either by being placed in the hat or suspended from the neck. Having been, therefore, in the first instance, struck from dies, they were afterward tooled over and burnished by the goldsmith till they assumed the wonderfully beautiful appearance which the above-mentioned author ascribes to Reitz's works in general and to his Charles V. in particular. "Apart from its high artistic value"—he observes—"this portrait has a peculiar merit, inasmuch as it agrees with the well-known likeness by Amberger, and hence we may judge of the correctness of the outlines and of the expression. In every respect this work can bear a comparison with those of the Italian artists who treat the same subject".

On the edge of our specimen of this medal may be read the following curious addition, in Dutch: *Janneken Jacobs Getrouwt Den 2 Augustus Aen Jan + Gervetsen + Slotmaecker + Hoe + OnGelyck + Ist leven + Anno 1626*, meaning: "Jenny Jacobs betrothed on the 2d of August to John Gervetsen,

* Heinrich Bolzenthals. *Skizzen zur Kunstgeschichte der Modernen Medaillen-Arbeit (1429-1840)*; Berlin, 1840; p. 138 and Pl. XIII.

Clockmaker. How unequal is life! In the year 1626". The medal seems, therefore, to have been given by John to Jenny as a memorial of their betrothal, and the philosophical reflection about the estates and conditions of men seems to have suggested itself through the vast distance which seemed to intervene between imperial Charles and the clockmaker and his bride.

Had these latter humble persons known that the posterity of the great emperor was destined to become extinct, in imbecility and amid contempt, with the very century in which they then were, they would have acknowledged that there are, in human life, compensations and balances which bring us all pretty nearly to a level. And they would have opened their eyes with astonishment could it have been revealed to them that their little record of plighted troth would eventually find its way to a city, now of vast population and wealth, but whose site was in that very year, 1626, purchased from its savage owners for but 60 guilders of their money. Such, however, is the undoubted fact, namely, that, in 1626, Peter Minuit purchased Manhattan island for the West India Company from the Indians for 60 guilders, or 24 dollars—which is about the value of the medal which we have here been discussing.

REVIEW.

VARIETIES OF THE COPPER ISSUES OF THE UNITED STATES MINT IN THE YEAR 1794: by Edward Maris, M. D. Philadelphia: printed by William K. Bellows, corner Fourth Street and Apple Tree Alley. 1869. 12mo; pp. 15.

Since it is announced on the *verso* of the title-page that "with its acknowledged imperfections and incompleteness the work is respectfully inscribed to THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY", we could not help being mollified by the compliment, were we disposed—which we are not—to indulge in any severity of criticism with regard to our friend Dr. Maris's contribution to American Numismatics. The Society is adjourned at present, and will not resume its meetings till next October, so that it behooves us, as its representatives, to acknowledge, *ad interim*, the doctor's courtesy. This we do, with *effusion*, as the French say, and shall proceed, as far as our inferior acquaintance with the subject allows, to express an opinion as to this little tractate.

The author's design may be best set forth by transcribing a portion of his preface:—

"As far as our means of information enable us to arrive at a conclusion, the only copper coins made at our Mint in 1794 were of the denomination of Cent and Half Cent. Of the former, the record says 918,521 were issued, and 81,600 of the latter. The interest excited in the minds of collectors by their variety—a consequence, probably, of the breakage of dies—is shared by the writer, and has resulted in this attempt to describe the most noticeable peculiarity of each with sufficient accuracy to enable the careful examiner to recognize any given specimen, in a condition not below fair. This has been no easy work, as the close general resemblance which many of them bear to each other makes it difficult to convey, by the pen, points of difference readily detected by the eye. It is not claimed that every existing variety has come under examination. A pioneer work should not be expected to be thorough. On the other hand, the descriptions given were made from personal inspection of pieces now in his cabinet."

Dr. Maris discriminates not fewer than 39 varieties of the cent which is his subject; and he has distinguished them by names which are, we doubt not, characteristic, and are, certainly, in many instances, rather quaint and striking. Personally we like the quiet humor which they embody, and consider it to be an excellent element in the nature of a true antiquarian. It is very marked in the Captain Groses and Doctor Dibbins of England, but has not been enough cultivated as yet among our cis-Atlantic *cognoscenti*. We think proper to exhibit our author's entire list. Where there appear to be gaps, sub-varieties will be found in his descriptions.

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. '93 Head. | 10. Pyram'l Head. | 18. Venus Marina. | 29. Marred Field. |
| 2. Double Chin. | 11. Mint mk'd Head. | 20. Fallen 4. | 31. Distant 1. |
| 3. Sans Milling. | 12. Scarred Head. | 21. Short Bust. | 32. Shielded Hair. |
| 4. Tilted 4. | 13. Standless 4. | 23. Patagonian. | 34 6, 7. The Plica. |
| 5. Young Head. | 14. Abrupt Hair. | 25. Nondescript. | 38. Roman Plica. |
| 6. The Coquette. | 15. Severed Hairs. | 26. Amatory Face. | 39. '95 Head. |
| 7. Crooked 7. | 17. The Ornate. | 28. Large Planch. | |

Having but nine 1794s at this moment before us, and those not in very satisfactory condition, we find ourselves quite unable to test the accuracy of the Doctor's descriptions, or the nicety of his divisions. We, however, perceive throughout his production every sign of careful observation and conscientious labor. The monograph can be procured from its author at a small cost; and we trust that collectors who have devoted themselves specially to the American Mint series will subject the work to rigid scrutiny, with a view to aid in fixing the status of all these cents of '94. Should they communicate to this JOURNAL the results of their investigation, a step will have been gained in the general progress. We are pleased to see so many indications that the spirit which formerly led our numismatists to keep each one his little scraps of information to himself is passing away; but, on the other hand, the dearth of contributions to our pages continues to show that this liberality of sentiment is combined with an apathy most discouraging to us as editors.

In conclusion, Dr. Maris has our sincere thanks for this effort to enlighten us, and our earnest exhortation to go on, and by enlarging, improving, correcting, if need be, and illustrating his treatise, to make it the unquestioned authority on this theme, so that every cent of 1794 shall henceforth be known as "Maris 1" or some other number, down to "Maris 39".

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Regular Meeting, June 10th, 1869.—The President in the chair.

After the ordinary business, and proceedings of no remarkable interest, the Society adjourned to the second Thursday in October.

J. MUHLENBERG BAILEY, *Recording Secretary.*

ESSEX COUNTY ANTIQUARIAN AND NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

Regular June Semi-monthly Meeting. President Illsley in the chair.

The Committee on organization reported a Constitution and By-Laws, which were adopted.

Communications were received from Mr. Isaac F. Wood, of New York, and Mr. Alfred Sandham, of Montreal, the former gentleman presenting the Society with a copy of his "Johnson Entry Medal", and the latter with a copy of his work on the "Coins and Tokens of Canada". Thanks were voted for these donations.

Mr. C. J. Patterson exhibited (1) A Queen Anne Guinea of 1713, in excellent preservation; (2) A Quadruple Ducat of the Dukes of Silesia, date 1611, entirely uncirculated and a beautiful piece; (3) A Ducat of Duke Eberhard Louis of Wurtemberg, 1699, with the motto CVM. DEO. ET. DIE., entirely uncirculated; (4) An uncirculated Belgian Ducat of 1803. Mr. E. J. Cleveland exhibited a fine specimen of a large-eagle Washington cent, and the secretary exhibited a set of American cents. Adjourned.

J. WOODS POINIER, Jr., *Secretary.*

TROUVAILLE.

Box 943, P. O. MONTREAL, June 18th, 1869.

DEAR SIR:—If you consider the enclosed of sufficient interest to give it a corner in the JOURNAL, I think that a permanent record of these specimens of the engraver's art is desirable; and further, I remember in one of the early numbers you gave a notice of "recent discoveries of coins" as "treasure trove". I cannot help thinking that the columns of the JOURNAL might be rendered attractive by such occasional extracts. I do not mean that every stereotyped "find" should be recorded, and so degenerate into the "enormous gooseberries" of the rural prints, but where there is any descriptive record like the annexed I think it would be worth while. I shall be happy to lend my poor help in this way, if you agree with me in my idea of its interest.

I am, dear sir, yours very respectfully,
HENRY MOTT.

PROFESSOR C. E. ANTHON, New York.

DISCOVERY OF OLD SCOTTISH COINS.

An important discovery of old Scottish Coins was recently made in a field near Prestonpans. There were in all 114 coins, dating from the reign of James III. to that of Mary. One of the silver pieces had been struck in commemoration of Mary's marriage with the Dauphin of France. It is dated 1558; and, in addition to the monogram, "FM," with the heraldic emblems of France and Scotland, there is the following Latin legend on the reverse:—"JAM NON SUNT DUO SED UNA CARO." One of the silver coins, bearing the date 1558, is said to be almost as perfect in its stamping as on the day when it left the Scottish mint. A number of the coins have been deposited in the Edinburgh Antiquarian Museum. Carberry Hill, the scene of Mary's surrender, is in the neighborhood of the place where the discovery was made.

THE MACKENZIE SALE.

On the evenings of June 23 and 24 this sale took place with much *éclat*. The catalogue, illustrated by five capital photographic plates, each comprising a number of the choicest coins and medals, had excited much interest; and copies of it, after being made complete by prices and names, will henceforward be in great request. Without intrenching on the prerogative of others in regard to the publication of these latter additions, we will simply observe that the auction was in almost every respect a grand success. The gross receipts for the 759 lots amounted to \$4,430.51. The aggregate sum for which the 87 cents were disposed of was \$1,295. The other pieces sold proportionately well, and every one seemed pleased with the general result.

"COPPERHEADS."

A Descriptive Catalogue of the Copper and Base Metallic Currency issued in the several States of the United States, commencing in 1862 and ending in 1864.

[CONTINUED FROM THE NUMBER FOR JUNE, 1869.]

360. OB.: "M. Walsh & Sons Staple & Fancy Dry Goods Niagara Falls, N. Y." REV.: An Indian head, 13 stars, "1863." C. B.
361. OB.: "G. Idler's Meat Market Ogdensburgh, N. Y." REV.: Same as Reverse No. 360. C. B.
362. OB.: "Johnson House, A. M. Sherman Pro. Ogdensburgh N. Y." REV.: Same as Reverse No. 360. C. B.
363. OB.: "M. L. Marshall 1863 Oswego, N. Y." A fish and two stars. REV.: "Toys, Fancy Goods Fishing Tackle And Rare Coin." C.
364. OB.: "Eastman National Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y." Two stars. REV.: A quill laid across an open book. "I-C." "Actual Business Department" Two stars. N.
365. OB.: "D. Skidmore Seneca Falls N. Y." An eagle holding a cigar in his beak; over the cigar, the words "Good for One." REV.: "Skidmore's Head Quarters 95 Fall St. Hotel." S. C. B. T.
366. OB.: "Charles Babcock Jeweler Troy N. Y." REV.: "Redeemed at my Store 72 Cong. St. 1863." C.
367. OB.: "Charles Babcock, Jeweler Troy N. Y." Within a wreath, "72 Cong. St." REV.: Indian head, 13 stars, "1863." "E. S." in small letters below the head. C.
368. OB.: "Oliver Boutwell, Miller Troy, N. Y." Two stars and flourishes. REV.: "Redeemed at my Office 1863." Extensive flourishes. B.
- 369—376. Eight different tokens, similar to No. 368, difficult to describe, the variations being principally in the flourishes. All brass.
377. OB.: Similar to Obverse No. 368; but without any stars. REV.: Similar to Reverse No. 368. B.
378. OB. and REV.: Similar to No. 377. B.
379. OB.: Similar to Obverse No. 368. REV.: "Redeemable in Bills at my Office." Four stars and flourishes. B.
380. OB. and REV.: Similar to No. 379. B.
381. OB.: Similar to Obverse No. 377. REV.: Same as Reverse No. 379. B.
382. OB.: "W. E. Hagan No. 1 First St. Troy, N. Y." REV.: "Soda Water 5 Cents." Two stars. Gutta-Percha.
383. OB.: "E. L. Percy, Trunks & Traveling Bags Wholesale & Retail Hoop Skirts Hosiery Gloves &c. Mansion House Block." REV.: An eagle. "Trunks & Travelling Bags Mansion House Block No. 2. Troy, N. Y." Two stars. B. Size 17.
384. OB.: "Robinson & Ballou Grocers Troy N. Y." Two stars and flourishes. REV.: "Redeemed at Our Store 1863." Numerous flourishes. B.
- 385—392. Eight varieties of the above: the difference is in the flourishes and in the placing of the letters. All brass.
393. OB.: "I. J. Knapp No. 8 Liberty St. Utica N. Y. Wines & Liquors." REV.: "I. O. U. 1 Cent, pure Copper." Circle with rays, two small heads facing to the left. C. Size 13.
394. OB.: Same as Obverse No. 393. REV.: Similar to Reverse No. 393. The two heads much larger and are facing each other. C. Size 13.
395. OB.: "Sherwood & Hopson China Emporium Utica N. Y." Two stars. REV.: A flag surrounded by 13 stars. "The Flag of our Union, 1863." C. B.
396. OB.: "Henry C. Welles Druggist & Book Seller Waterloo N. Y." Two stars. REV.: "Business Card." in a wreath. C.
397. OB.: "Hart's Arcade Gallery For Best Pictures Watertown N. Y." Six stars. REV.: A thistle. "United we stand Divided we fall." Two stars. C.
398. OB.: Same as Obverse No. 397. REV.: Similar to Reverse No. 397. The thistle larger. C.
399. OB.: "To Purify the Blood use Atherton's Pills," within a circle. "E. W. Hall Whitehall N. Y." REV.: "Try Atherton's Wild Cherry Syrup For Coughs & Colds." C.
400. OB.: "E. E. Hasse Yonkers N. Y." One star. REV.: Within a wreath "Not one Cent. L. Roloff." C.
401. OB.: Same as Obverse No. 400. REV.: An Indian head. C.
402. OB.: Same as Obverse No. 400. REV.: "Erinnerung an 1863." C.
403. OB.: "E. W. Atwood Dealer in Books Newspapers &c." A small wreath. REV.: A representation of the Capitol at Washington. "United States 1863." Eight stars. C.
404. OB.: Same as Obverse No. 403. REV.: A Liberty head, surrounded by 13 stars. "1863." C.

DEVICES ON UNITED STATES COINS AND PATTERN PIECES.



B.B.

Hall Photo.